

I Claim As My Invention:

1. A method for outputting a table, which contains a plurality of columns, on at least one of a printer and a screen even when a prescribed width of the table has been exceeded, the method comprising the steps of:

5 ascertaining, based on the prescribed width value, at least one column whose unshortened rendering would exceed the prescribed width value; and

 stipulating, for the column, a number of characters to be rendered which is less than a number of characters in a row having the most characters in the one column.

10 2. A method for outputting a table as claimed in Claim 1, a method further comprising the steps of:

 determining a number of characters to be suppressed upon output;

 carrying out a test for the plurality of columns in accordance with a
15 prescribed order to determine whether the prescribed width value has been exceeded; and

 reducing, for an ascertained column, a number of characters to be rendered, before other columns are tested, only by a value which is less than the number of characters to be suppressed upon output.

20 3. A method for outputting a table as claimed in Claim 2, the method further comprising the steps of:

 carrying out a test, after a test pass, for the plurality of columns to determine whether the number of characters to be rendered has been changed in at least one
25 column; and

 repeating the test pass, in the event of the change, using the same width value.

30 4. A method for outputting a table as claimed in claim 3, the method further comprising the step of:

decrementing the width value in the test pass if there is no change.

5. A method for outputting a table as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

selecting, automatically, one of a portrait and a landscape format based on the width of the table when rendered in shortened form.

6. A method for outputting a table as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of columns contain a column heading, and the column heading is treated as a row of the column when the rendering is shortened.

7. A method for outputting a table as claimed in claim 6, the method further comprising the steps of:

printing column headings for the columns outside the table, after the number of characters to be rendered has been stipulated, wherein the number of characters in the column headings is greater than the number of characters to be rendered in the respective column; and

printing markers in the table instead of the column headings.

8. A method for outputting a table as claimed in claim 1, wherein a smaller number of characters to be rendered is stipulated for a column only if it does not eliminate any numerals upon rendering.

9. A program for outputting a table, which contains a plurality of columns, on at least one of a printer and a screen even when a prescribed width of the table has been exceeded, the program comprising a command sequence whose execution by a processor reads at least one of data and a length of data fields in the table to be output and, if the prescribed width of the table is exceeded, steps are automatically performed to render the table despite the prescribed width having been exceeded, wherein, based on the prescribed width value, at least one column is ascertained whose unshortened rendering would exceed the prescribed width value,

and wherein, for the column, the plurality of characters to be rendered is stipulated which is less than a number of characters in a row having the most characters in the column.

5 10. A program for outputting a table as claimed in claim 9, wherein, upon execution of the command sequence, a number of characters to be suppressed upon output is determined, a test is carried out for the plurality columns in accordance with a prescribed order to determine whether the width value has been exceeded and, for an ascertained column, a number of characters to be rendered is
10 reduced, before other columns are tested, only by a value which is less than the number of characters to be suppressed upon output.

15 11. A data medium for storing a program for outputting a table, which contains a plurality of columns, on at least one of a printer and a screen even when a prescribed width of the table has been exceeded, the program comprising a command sequence whose execution by a processor reads at least one of data and a length of data fields in the table to be output and, if a prescribed width of the table is exceeded, steps are automatically performed to render the table despite the prescribed width having been exceeded, wherein, based on the prescribed width
20 value, at least one column is ascertained whose unshortened rendering would exceed the prescribed width value, and wherein, for the column, a plurality of characters to be rendered is stipulated which is less than a number of characters in a row having the most characters in the column.

25 12. A data network message containing a program for outputting a table, which contains a plurality of columns, on at least one of a printer and screen even when a prescribed width of the table has been exceeded, the program comprising a command sequence whose execution by a processor reads at least one of data and a length of data fields in the table to be output and, if the prescribed width of the
30 table is exceeded, steps are automatically performed to render the table despite the

prescribed width having been exceeded, wherein, based on the prescribed width value, at least one column is ascertained whose unshortened rendering would exceed the prescribed width value, and wherein, for the column, a plurality of characters to be rendered is stipulated which is less than a number of characters in a row having the most characters in the column.

5